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The Council of Seventy.

The Council desires publicly to express its indebtedness to the religious press of the country for the frequent mention of the work of the American Institute to be found in the columns of many of the leading religious journals. In this connection the following papers have shown special courtesy: *The Independent* (New York), *The Outlook* (New York), *The Congregationalist* (Boston), *The Standard* (Chicago), *The M. E. Herald* (Minneapolis), *The Texas Baptist and Herald* (Dallas), *The Cumberland Presbyterian* (Nashville), *The Baptist Outlook* (Indianapolis), *The Religious Telescope* (Dayton), *The Evangelical Churchman* (Toronto), *The St. Louis Observer* (St. Louis), *The Advance* (Chicago), *The Western Christian Advocate* (Cincinnati), *The Christian Oracle* (Chicago), *The Evangelical* (Harrisburg, Pa.), *The Biblical Recorder* (Raleigh), *The Evangelist* (New York), *The Union Signal* (Chicago), *The Evangelical Messenger* (Cleveland), *The Christian Register* (Boston), *The New York Christian Advocate* (New York), *The Arkansas Baptist* (Little Rock), *The Sunday School Times* (Philadelphia), *The Golden Rule* (Boston). Many other papers might be included, but these are especially mentioned because of the frequency with which notices have appeared, evidencing a genuine desire to coöperate in the work.

The biblical work of the Institute is finding its way into that great body of energetic students represented by the women's clubs of the country. The constituency of these clubs is so varied in relation to creeds and dogmas that at first sight, and from the point of view of harmony, it might seem inadvisable to introduce the study of the Bible as a department of work. It is a fact, however, that in clubs where Bible sections have already been working one year, there were found representatives of all evangelical denominations, and in addition, Jews, Catholics, Unitarians, and even those who had nominally no religious belief. Strange to say, so much of interest and agreement was found in the general work that no time was left, and no inclination manifested for emphasizing the wide differences in personal views concerning details. A small pamphlet giving the experience of two large Bible

sections in prominent clubs is in press, and will be circulated among all the clubs belonging to the general federation this month. The sketches are introduced by a cordial letter of commendation from Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, the president of the federation.

The following extract shows under what difficulties, and yet with what perseverance, many of the students of the Institute pursue their work: "I studied the course last year very carefully, but could not find time to answer the questions in writing. I bought a little book of Proverbs of large type, and, fastening it on the side of my corn wagon, followed the course through Proverbs while husking from sixty to eighty bushels of corn a day; but I could not answer the questions in writing that way. I am learning much of the Bible by heart. I already know much of the New Testament. I find this method of study a great help, for when I learn a chapter I know it and can recall any verse. I tear out leaves from a cheap Bible and learn the verses while at work."

A volume containing all the principal articles upon the life of Christ, which have been published in the BIBLICAL WORLD during the past three years has been prepared by the Institute for the use of its students. The articles are well illustrated, and a good map forms the frontispiece. The contributors to the volume are the following well-known scholars: Professor J. S. Riggs, D.D.; Professor H. M. Scott, D.D.; Professor Ernest D. Burton, D.D.; Professor A. C. Zenos, D.D.; Professor William Arnold Stevens, D.D.; Professor Alexander Balmain Bruce, D.D.; Professor Marcus Dods, D.D.; Professor William C. Wilkinson, D.D.; Professor Rush Rhees; Professor Shailer Mathews; Professor George T. Purves, D.D.; Professor George Adam Smith, D.D.; Professor Charles R. Henderson, D.D.; Rev. Frank W. Gunsaulus, D.D.; President William R. Harper, D.D.; Principal A. M. Fairbairn, D.D.; Bishop J. H. Vincent, D.D. Any Bible student would find it convenient to have all these articles in one volume.¹

Some specially interesting clubs for the study of the life of Christ, and other topics, of the four years' course, have been organized this year. Beginning with next month, a special roll of honor of all clubs enrolling more than thirty members will be published from month to month in the BIBLICAL WORLD.

The Rev. Lindsay B. Longacre, pastor of the Methodist Church at Spuyten Duyvil, New York city, reports a club of more than fifty

¹ Price \$1.00.

members, including children in the upper grammar grades of the public schools, young women from the Normal College, clerks, and fathers and mothers of college boys and girls. Mr. Longacre writes: "Truly, a varied crowd, but they seemed to feel that there was something to learn, and that they had come to learn it. Not the slightest feeling of inequality was apparent."

Rev. John H. Boyd, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Evanston, Ill., has formed a large club in his congregation, and will use the topics for prayer meeting talks throughout the year. The number in this church already enrolled for this work reaches nearly one hundred, and is daily increasing.

An interesting club has been formed in the Y. M. C. A. of the Johns Hopkins University. This is the same club, consisting largely of graduate students, in which the work was carried on so successfully last year.

Again, with January 1898, the popular courses of the Institute come into line with the International Sunday-School Lessons. It will be possible to study the subject (The Life of Christ) in outline from the club course, in literature through the Reading Guild, in detail through the English correspondence courses in Luke and John, and still more thoroughly through the New Testament Greek correspondence courses. It is hoped that a special feature may be made of the outline club work, which can be so admirably introduced as a home study course in schools where the home study work is advocated. A special plan in this latter connection will be indicated later.